

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 297938

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EXDIS-HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PASSAGE OF ZIONISM AMENDMENT THREATENS UNESCO MEETING

IN THE WAKE OF THE DECEMBER 17 PASSAGE AT THE UNESCO MASS MEDIA MEETING OF A ZIONISM-RACISM AMENDMENT, THE ISRAELI DELEGATION REPORTS:

--THE EC NINE WILL RECOMMEND TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY REFUSE FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE ZIONISM-RACISM VOTE SHATTERED ALL POSSIBILITY FOR THE CONSENSUS ESSENTIAL FOR PRODUCTION OF A MEANINGFUL DOCUMENT.

IN EVALUATING THE MERITS OF US PARTICIPATION IN OR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MEETING, EACH PART OF THE US DELEGATION

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 297938

OFFERED ITS COMMENTS:

--THE US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EXPERTS MEETING RECOMMENDS AGAINST FURTHER PARTICIPATION. BUT IF THE EC NINE STAY, HE CAN SEE SOME ADVANTAGES IN STAYING IN THE MEETING TO INFLUENCE THE FINAL DECLARATION.

--THE PERMANENT DELEGATION THINKS THAT POLITICAL SENSITIVITY AND HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE WEIGH HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF A WALKOUT WITH THE ISRAELIS.

--THE PUBLIC MEMBERS TILT TOWARD STAYING IN THE MEETING TO PERMIT US INFLUENCE ON THE DRAFT DECLARATION AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS INSTRUCTED OUR DELEGATION NOT TO ATTEND THE DECEMBER 18 MEETING AND TO GIVE NO INDICATION OF WHEN OR IF THE US MIGHT RESUME PARTICIPATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 33017, 33013; (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PARIS 33014 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) STATE 297931, 12/17.)

2. INDONESIA

A. GOI WARILY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA

WHILE EMBASSY JAKARTA NOTES THAT THE USG ABSTENTION ON THE UNGA TIMOR RESOLUTION ALLOWED US-INDONESIAN RELATIONS TO REMAIN INTACT, AUSTRALIA'S VOTE BROUGHT EXTREME GOI DISPLEASURE AND A SMALL DEMONSTRATION AT THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN JAKARTA BY A GOVERNMENT-CONNECTED YOUTH GROUP. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN INDONESIAN-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS:

--FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK ANNOUNCED HE DOES NOT EXPECT AUSTRALIAN POLICY TOWARD INDONESIA TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY UNDER THE FRASER GOVERNMENT, ALTHOUGH JAKARTA PRESS REACTION TO THE OUTCOME OF THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS WAS GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC.

--TO AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR WOOLCOTT'S CHARGE THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN INDONESIAN TROOPS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 297938

AND INDONESIAN "VOLUNTEERS," MALIK REJOINED THAT IT WAS ALSO HARD TO BELIEVE THAT AUSTRALIA HAD NOT ASSISTED FRETELIN, PRINCIPALLY BY AIDING FRETELIN LEADERS AND EUROPEAN "MERCENARIES" IN THEIR TRAVEL THROUGH AUSTRALIA.

USUN REPORTS THAT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS ON TIMOR SET FOR DECEMBER 18, THE JAPANESE HAVE FOUND LITTLE

BACKING FOR THEIR MODERATE DRAFT ON TIMOR, AND DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE NONALIGNED NATIONS MAY KEEP THEIR RESOLUTION CON- DEMNING BOTH PORTUGAL AND INDONESIA FROM BEING PRESENTED.

B. TIMOR PROBLEM: A DILEMMA FOR US POLICY?

EMBASSY JAKARTA RECOMMENDS THAT THE USG MAINTAIN ITS COURSE OF AVOIDING IDENTIFICATION WITH THE PROBLEM OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR. IN LINE WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION, THE EMBASSY URGES THE USG:

--TO VOTE AGAINST OR ABSTAIN ON ANY RESOLUTION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNACCEPTABLE TO INDONESIA, AND

--TO FOREGO ANY APPROACH TO THE GOI ABOUT PORTUGUESE MILITARY DETAINEES HELD IN TIMOR.

EMBASSY LISBON, HOWEVER, ARGUES THAT THE US SHOULD SUPPORT PORTUGAL IN A HUMANITARIAN REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON PORTUGUESE TROOPS HELD IN TIMOR. (SECRET) LISBON 7492 AND JAKARTA 15438; (CONFIDENTIAL) JAKARTA 15448; (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) JAKARTA 15407, 12/17.)

3. PORTUGAL FACES LIQUIDITY CRISIS

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT PORTUGAL IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING A SEVERE LIQUIDITY CRISIS. NEGOTIATIONS TO CONVERT PORTUGAL'S GOLD RESERVES OR TO BORROW AGAINST THEM HAVE BEEN INCONCLUSIVE, AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES WILL BE VIRTUALLY EXHAUSTED BY EARLY JANUARY. HOPES FOR THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY, AND PERHAPS FOR THE FORCES OF MODERATION, COULD BE DASHED BY A LACK OF LIQUIDITY AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES. IF THE ECONOMY IS THROWN INTO A TAILSPIN, IT WOULD PROBABLY
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 297938

REVERSE RECENT POLITICAL GAINS AND CREATE AN OPENING FOR A COMMUNIST RESURGENCE.

AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI RECOMMENDS THAT THE US HELP EASE PORTUGAL'S FINANCIAL CRISIS BY:

--ARRANGING A ONE YEAR DOLLAR/ESCUDO "SWAP" OF APPROXIMATELY \$200 MILLION;

--SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASING 1976 PLO 480 FROM THE CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED LEVEL OF \$15 MILLION;

--ENCOURAGING THE PRIVATE BANKING SYSTEM AND WEST EUROPEAN NATIONS TO ASSIST PORTUGAL;

--ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE GOP'S EFFORTS TO BORROW FROM
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; AND,

--RENEWING EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LONG-TERM CREDITS FOR
ECONOMICALLY VIABLE PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE GOP.
(SECRET) LISBON 7486 (EXDIS) AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL
USE) LISBON 7478, 12/17.)

4. QATAR: TARRED BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BRUSH

QATARI CIVIL AVIATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT SAMI GAYID BRIEFED
EMBASSY DOHA ON A MEETING HE ATTENDED BETWEEN FINANCE AND
PETROLEUM MINISTER ABDUL AZIZ AND LOCKHEED MIDDLE EAST PRES-
IDENT CONLEY:

--ABDUL AZIZ IS ENRAGED BY CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON
AGENTS' FEES.

--IF THE GOQ IS PILLORIED AT THE HEARINGS, ABDUL AZIZ
WILL SEE TO IT THAT NO AMERICAN FIRM EVER DOES BUSINESS
IN QATAR AGAIN.

ABDUL AZIZ, STRESSING THAT THE FEES ARE ENTIRELY LEGAL AND
REGULAR UNDER QATARI LAW, BERATED CONLEY AND TOLD HIM TO
"PRESSURE THE WHITE HOUSE" TO SHUT DOWN THE HEARINGS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 297938

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY EXPLAINING THE SEP-
ARATION OF POWERS TO ABDUL AZIZ, WHO IS DISPOSED TO LUMP
THE USG ALL INTO ONE. (SECRET) DOHA 1429 (EXDIS), 12/17.)
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